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DIRECTIVES ON THE 25th CELEBRATION OF REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS

THE Secretariat of the Viet Nam Workers' Party has just given directives on the 25th commemoration of the August Revolution (August 19, 1945) and the founding of the DRVN (September 2, 1945).

The directives lay stress on the following points:

1. — *The triumph of the August Revolution and foundation of the DRVN have ushered in the era of independence and freedom for the Vietnamese people. Since then, for a quarter of a century now, our people, closing their ranks within the National United Front, have been waging, under the leadership of the Party and venerated President HO CHI MINH, an arduous and heroic struggle and have won tremendous achievements: victory over the French colonialist aggressors and US interventionists, complete liberation of the North, completion of land reform, embarking of the North on the socialist path; at present all our people are conducting a victorious war against the US imperialists and their lackeys; in the South, the revolutionary people's power has been set up at all levels, agrarian policy and other democratic reforms have been carried out in the free zone.*

2. — *Despite their serious setbacks and quagmire in Viet Nam, the US imperialists have not given up their aggressive scheme. At prevent they are desperately trying to implement their "Vietnamization" aimed at prolonging the war and spreading it all over Indochina. Before final victory, our national resistance to US aggression is likely to go through many hardships. With President HO CHI MINH's last message in mind, our people will persevere in it and step it up till total triumph. Each of us is expected to do his best and all necessary forces will be mobilized for the fight to liberate the South, defend the North and ultimately realize peaceful national reunification.*

3. — *As great rear-base of the revolution throughout the country, the North must be ready to fight and assist the frontline and must also step up socialist construction. We must restore and expand agriculture, industry, transport and communications, develop culture, education, health work, improve the material and cultural welfare of the people. Our urgent task is to push up agricultural production, light industry and handicrafts so as to solve more satisfactorily the problem of food and food stuff and that of consumer goods and daily necessities, while developing priority sectors of heavy industry.*

The directives of the Secretariat of the Viet Nam Workers' Party urge that all the Party, people and army must address themselves to the victory over the US aggressors and the success of socialist construction.

Apropos of "Vietnamization"

Can the Puppet Army Bear the Brunt of the War?

ON July 31, 1970 in Los Angeles, President Nixon once again affirmed that "Vietnamization" would be the best remedy to the Viet Nam war.

The essence of the "remedy" is, as everybody knows, to shift to the puppet army the burden of the war so far shouldered by the US expeditionary forces. The success of such a move will depend on the capability of the Saigon troops to bear the brunt of the war.

US WAR MATERIALS GALORE, RUTHLESS RECRUITING

Washington is mainly concerned with the reinforcement of that war means.

According to the American press, the puppet build-up plan will be completed in two stages:

— From January to December 1969: development of forces in all respects with priority given to support strength (aircraft, warships, artillery, armoured vehicles, transport means) and auxiliary forces (militia, civil guards, police).

— From 1970 to end of 1973: consolidation of this war establishment.

At present this build-up amounts to 650,000 men and includes the regular troops, the security forces (*bao an*) and the militia (*dan ve*). Besides, the police numbers over 90,000 and the "civil guards" — a paramilitary force without uniform — nearly one million. The Yankees are contemplating to raise the puppet regular army to over one million men.

On March 1, the first puppet airborne division was set on foot; three new airborne units received 1,500 helicopters; the puppet air force is at present 33,000 men strong.

The puppet navy has taken over small naval bases such as Qui Nhon, Ben Luc, My Tho, respectively 425km northeast, 30 and 60km southwest of Saigon, and over 550 vessels, mostly river boats and guard-ships, which makes it, according to the Western press, the 14th fleet in the world insofar as the number of ships is concerned.

The US command has intended to set up six new armoured regiments. Two hundred tanks and one thousand vehicles were handed to the quislings. Four out of 20 new artillery battalions were built and soon armed by the Americans with 600 cannons and 10,000 mortars; the equipment will be shortly completed by the addition of 24,000 lorries, 20,000 radio sets, 700,000 M.16 automatic rifles, 30,000 grenade-throwers and 10,000 machine-guns and tommy-guns.

(*Continued page 7*)

5 tons of paddy per hectare: *this goal has been attained in numerous ricefields in North Viet Nam*

DRVN DELEGATION TO PARIS CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON NIXON'S PRESS CONFERENCE

The spokesman of the DRVN Government delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on July 31 issued the following statement on Nixon's July 30 press conference:

THE contentions of Mr. Nixon during his press conference on July 30, 1970 on the Viet Nam problem remain the same as those so often repeated obdurately by his administration, and which we and broad sections of opinion in the United States and the world have not ceased to condemn severely. In fact, Mr. Nixon still refuses to withdraw completely and speedily all US troops and those of the foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam without laying down any condition whatsoever. He still maintains illegally the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration created and fostered by the US. He continues advocating unreasonably an "election" to be organized by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration in the framework of the latter's legislation, showing thereby that he sets his face against the formation of a broad provisional coalition government in South Viet Nam including representatives of various political tendencies and personalities standing for peace, independence and neutrality. All people of good will and conscience know that only when a provisional coalition government is set up in South Viet Nam without pressure from either side to force the South Vietnamese people to accept their political regime, can really free and democratic elections be held in South Viet Nam to set up a definitive coalition government in South Viet Nam.

Also at the July 30, 1970 press conference, Mr. Nixon kept boasting about US imaginary successes in Cambodia and South Viet Nam. Carried away by his own lies, he claimed that the US invasion of Cambodia had made the enemy position "weaker" the "prospects for a negotiated peace better." That gratuitous affirmation of Mr. Nixon is significant in two respects concerning his administration:

1) The latter excels in the art of lying, the art of passing setbacks off as successes.

2) It still nurtures the illusion of a military victory on the battlefield so as to secure a position of strength at the conference table.

The Nixon administration's words and deeds over the past 19 months have faithfully reflected its policy of continuing and prolonging its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, expanding it to the whole of Indochina, realizing neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, pitting Asians against Asians. That aggressive, warlike and colonialist policy of the Nixon administration has kept the Paris Conference on Viet Nam in a deadlock.

Should the Nixon administration pursue that road, refuse to change its policy, to stop its war of aggression in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, to withdraw quickly and unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos, and to give up the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration in order to let the South Vietnamese people settle their internal affairs without foreign interference, it will only suffer still heavier failure and must bear full responsibility for the prolongation of the war and the standstill of the Paris Conference.

78th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (August 6, 1970)

New US Negotiator Reiterates Old Arguments

A new head, Ambassador David Bruce, has just been appointed to the American delegation. Nevertheless at this session he merely rang the changes on the same trite claims of the Nixon clique, like "desire to settle the conflict through negotiations," "let the South Vietnamese shape their own future," and "see the matter of withdrawal of troops tabled for discussion," etc.

On behalf of the RSVN and the DRVN, Mr Nguyen Van Tien and Mr Nguyen Minh Vy reminded David Bruce that the stalemate of the Paris Conference was due to Nixon's attempts to seek a military victory to negotiate from a position of strength. The US President's statement at the July 30 press conference that the United States would take exception to any "imposed or negotiated" coalition government and the Saigon puppet clique's frenzied opposition to the same were further proofs of White House obstinacy, Mr Nguyen Minh Vy pointed out.

CEYLON RECOGNIZES DE JURE RSVN

THE Government of Ceylon has granted full diplomatic recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as from July 14, 1970, *GPA* reported.

The Agency added that Mrs Sirima R.D. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of the Ceylonese Government, and President Huynh Tan Phat of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, had exchanged letters in this connection.

Mrs NGUYEN THI BINH VISITS CEYLON

AT the invitation of the Ceylonese Government, a delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the RSVN, arrived on July 27 in Colombo.

She was welcomed at the airport by Home Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike, representing Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other high-ranking officials of the Ceylonese Government.

Present were also members of the Diplomatic Corps.

In the VIP room, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh delivered a speech. On behalf of the RSVN PRG and NFL, she expressed sincere thanks for the deep sympathy and precious support granted by the Ceylonese people to the South Vietnamese people in their struggle against US aggression.

On the same day, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh called on Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and conveyed to the Ceylonese Premier the high consideration of Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL and Chairman of the Advisory Council of the RSVN PRG, and of President Huynh Tan Phat of the RSVN PRG. She expressed the deep sympathy and vigorous support of the South Vietnamese people for the efforts of the Ceylonese people to consolidate their national independence and build Ceylon into a prosperous country. She also thanked the Government and people of Ceylon for their full diplomatic recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Mrs Bandaranaike expressed her interest in the struggle in South Viet Nam against US aggression, for national salvation, and the deep sympathy and strong support of the Ceylonese Government and people for it.

On July 28, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh called on various personalities of Ceylon and received pressmen. She also attended two mass meetings in Colombo in solidarity with the South Vietnamese people.

On the afternoon of the same day, members of the Ceylon National Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam, the Ceylon Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and the Ceylon Peace Committee called on Mme Nguyen Thi Binh and reaffirmed their wholehearted support to the South Vietnamese people's war of resistance to US aggression, for national salvation.

On July 29, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh laid a wreath at the memorial of Solomon Bandaranaike Samadi, the well-known patriotic leader of the Ceylonese people.

The delegation of the RSVN left for home on the afternoon of July 29.

Saigon "Peace" and "Negotiation" Propaganda Ploy

BY instruction of his American bosses, the Saigon puppet President Nguyen Van Thieu, a loyal servant of the US, went on the TV on July 31 hardly ten hours after Nixon held his press conference, to prattle about "peace" and "negotiation."

Thieu glibly talked of his "peace stance," claiming that he was "leaving the door to peace wide open" at a time when half-a-million American troops were daily massacring South Vietnamese with modern weapons in an attempt to bring them to their knees and maintain in power the corrupt and rotten Saigon puppet administration.

Thieu declared without scruple that "the internal political affairs of South Viet Nam must be freely settled by the South Vietnamese themselves without any pressure and interference in any form." If that were the case, how would the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, henchmen of the US, be able to survive as they have been so far in South Viet Nam? If that were the case, how is it that the US aggressor troops still occupy South Viet Nam territory?

Thieu also put forward his "solution to end the war and restore peace" and tried to pass for a "progressive" when he said that that solution should be arrived at all costs by "free and democratic manners."

But what is "democratic freedoms" in his style? Both Thieu and Ky, the puppet "vice-president" have overtly expressed their apprehension over an eventual withdrawal of US troops even a piecemeal token withdrawal intended to cheat public opinion in the United States and the world. In fact, on July 31, Thieu told several Western reporters in Saigon that he expected that by 1973, there would remain in South Viet Nam 50,000 American troops. People also still remember that even protected by half a million US troops, Thieu had to resort to brazen fraud to win his "presidential seat" in the election in 1967.

No smokescreen can help Thieu cover the traitorous nature of his puppet clique who are clinging to the US as babies to their mother's breasts.

The position of the South Vietnamese people has been made clear: The US must withdraw all its troops and those of its satellites from South Viet Nam and leave the South Vietnamese people to settle their internal affairs. This is the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and, without doubt, it cannot be the "earnest aspiration" of the puppet ring-leader Nguyen Van Thieu.

2-9-1945 2-9-1970

The D.R.V.N. is 25 Years Old

AN EDUCATION of the People and for the People

THE August 1945 Revolution opened up a new era for Viet Nam. By breaking their fetters, the Vietnamese people at the same time put an end to colonial obscurantism. After regaining independence, they directed their energies to the building of their education system, drawing inspiration from their centuries-old cultural traditions renovated by the vanguard slogan: "For a national, scientific and popular culture."

Since 1945 the road to be traversed has been bristling with obstacles: the 95-per cent illiteracy rate and an enslaving education left by the colonial rulers, the devastation and destruction caused by the 9 years' resistance to the new French aggression soon followed by the war against the US imperialists. However, defying all difficulties, the Vietnamese people have succeeded, after 25 years of efforts, in building and developing their education system which testifies to the unquestionable superiority of their social and political regime.

RAISING THE PEOPLE'S CULTURAL STANDARD

One week after the proclamation of the DRVN, on Sept. 8, 1945 President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree instituting the Mass Education Service whose urgent task was the liquidation of illiteracy. In an appeal to the people the same day, he said:

"... We have reconquered our independence. One of the most pressing jobs at this moment is to raise the people's cultural standard.

"... To safeguard the independence of our country and build it into a strong and prosperous nation, every Vietnamese must be aware of his rights and obligations and able to take part in national construction and, first of all, read and write in his mother tongue."

An anti-illiteracy campaign was launched on a nation-wide scale. It reached all sections of the people, from the plains to the uplands, from the cities to the countryside, from North to South. The labouring masses, young and old, men and women, all those kept in ignorance by colonialist exploitation and oppression and by misery and social prejudices, enthusiastically joined popular education classes run by the people with the scantiest means available, according to President Ho's instructions: "Those who can read and write teach those who cannot, everybody learns at any place, any time and by any means."

After a year, in late 1946, two and a half million people were freed from illiteracy. Having learnt "Uncle Ho's letters," they were able, later on, to read the December 19, 1946 historic presidential appeal for nation-wide resistance.

The 9-year war of Resistance did not hinder the progress of this important work which would eventually contribute to our victory over the French colonialists: under the watchword "the front wipes out the aggressors, the rear wipes out ignorance," the anti-illiteracy campaign kept developing by adjusting its organization to the new situation. Even in guerilla zones and behind the enemy's line, literacy classes kept functioning, legally or clandestinely. In 1954, when the French aggressors had to acknowledge their defeat, another ten million Vietnamese emerged from the night of ignorance.

With the post-war 3-year plan (1956-1958) the drive entered its stage of final offensive which was crowned with success at the end of 1958.

The obliteration of illiteracy cleared the way for the systematic raising of the people's cultural level, a task of first importance in national construction. A Complementary Education Service was officially set up to see to the improvement of the cultural and technical level of the labouring masses.

Evening classes were opened in all city districts, in every factory and every hamlet and village, to supply those who could already read and write with primary education. Skilled workers, technical and administrative cadres, Party officials attended higher classes which dispensed elementary and secondary education. Special schools for complementary education at different levels prepared the workers and the peasants for higher education establishments and secondary technical schools.

To help the uplands keep pace with the plains, the State administration has opened "schools for minority youth" which now have an enrolment of 8,000, half of them in secondary classes.

Socialist construction and the fight against US aggression called for an increasing contingent of educated and qualified workers and fighters for production and combat. The number of complementary education classes thus rose sharply, particularly that of women's; these train women cadres, especially in the countryside, for the replacement of the menfolk gone to the front. Their curricula were enlarged to contain new scientific and technical knowledge required by the fighting, the development of production and the management of the national economy.

At present, in major cities, the working people, for the most part, have completed their primary education. Classes now attended by skilled workers mostly give elementary and secondary education. Some can also follow correspondence courses of higher learning, especially those given by the Polytechnical College.

In the countryside, virtually all the cadres and the youth have finished their elementary education, while almost all peasants are in primary classes.

With the rapid development of science and culture, complementary education, an important branch of national education, will continue to be a preoccupation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the DRVN Government.

A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM

In 1939, the peak year of colonial education, there were 440,000 school-pupils of primary education out of the 24 million inhabitants while only 5,000 attended secondary classes of public schools. Infant schools were non-existent. Hanoi University, the only one of its kind in all Indochina (Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos), consisted of two faculties with 600 students, namely, the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Law, the latter being regarded by the foreign rulers as the most important because it trained future mandarins, instruments of the regime.

Today, the DRVN boasts a comprehensive system of education with 4 branches: general education, infant classes, complementary education for adults and higher education.

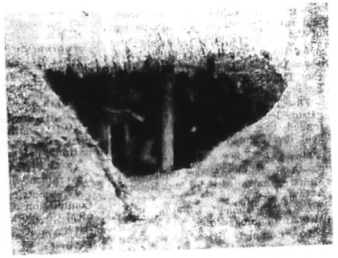
General education has made rapid headway. At the beginning of the 1945 term, 190,000 pupils received education in 3,039 schools with 5,583 teachers. In the 1969-1970 academic year, there were 11,663 schools (or 380 per cent up), 111,750 teachers (a 20-fold rise) and nearly 4,600,000 pupils (a 24-fold increase). Every village and every worker's district has its own primary school. Two-thirds of the North Vietnamese villages have their elementary schools. Each district possesses a secondary school.

During the 4 years of the US war of destruction, 1,589 schools were bombed. Under the slogan "learn well to fight the Yankees well," our children nevertheless followed their classes dispersed in the countryside. Even in the worst hit areas, such as Quang Binh, the people devised multiple ways to enable their children to go on learning, safe from enemy attacks.

Infant education has become a full-fledged educational department especially since US war escalation. Infant and pre-school classes have been opened at every hamlet, co-operative and workers' living quarters for 1.7 million children. They have relieved tens of thousands of mothers from household chores which previously limited their part in production and the fighting.

Adult complementary education (as described above) has largely contributed to raising the cultural level of the people and the achievement of the triple revolution which is underway: revolution in the relations of production, technical revolution, and cultural and ideological revolution.

Higher schooling is provided by higher education establishments and middle technical schools. Since 1960, the Ministry of Higher and Middle Technical Education has been active parallel to the Ministry of Education which has existed for 25 years. *(See our next article on higher education).*



Quynh Chau Secondary School (Quynh Luu district, Nghe An province) functioned normally even under daily US bombings

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SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION AND ANTI-US RESISTANCE

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (1954 — 1970)

First Stage 1955 — 1964

1954

September:

— The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party put forward immediate tasks.

— Reconstruction of the hydraulic system on the Chu river (Thanh Hoa) began (completion scheduled for March 1955).

— The socialist countries began setting up their embassies in Hanoi.

1955

February:

28 — Inauguration of the Hanoi - Muc Nam Quan railway line (on China border).

March:

— The 7th session of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party set forth the following tasks:

+ continue to implement the Geneva Agreements and fight for their strict observance by other parties,

+ consolidate the North in all respects,

+ keep up and step up political movement of the South Vietnamese people,

+ broaden and strengthen the National United Front throughout the country,

+ intensify diplomatic activities and enlist the support and sympathy of the world's peoples.

April:

7 — Visit to India and Burma of the DRVN Government delegation headed by Pham Van Dong.

18 — The DRVN Government delegation led by Pham Van Dong attended the Afro-Asian Conference held in Bandung.

May:

— A decision of the Council of Ministers amended the Land Reform Act.

7 — Establishment of the Thai-Meo Autonomous Zone.

16 — Complete liberation of North Viet Nam after the departure of the last French soldier.

June:

22 — A Party and Government delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh visited the Soviet Union, China and Mongolia.

August:

1 — Inauguration of the railway line linking Viet Nam to China.

— End of August: completion of the re-construction of Ben Thuy port.

— August and the following months: Signing of the first trade protocols between the DRVN and socialist countries and others.

October:

10 — Founding of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front.

November:

15 — The Haiphong cement plant rehabilitated,

December:

15 — First term of the Central Minority School.

1956

January:

29 — The Nam Dinh textile mill put into operation after a period of overhaul.

July:

— Completion of land reform.

August:

7 — Inauguration of the Hanoi - Lao Cai railway line.

10 — Setting up of the Viet Bac Autonomous Zone.

September:

— Beginning of the school-year in which the 10-year general education system was to be applied throughout the North.

— Beginning of term in 5 higher education schools (3,904 students).

— The Viet Nam Workers' Party defined the task of resolutely correcting the mistakes committed in land reform.

October:

7 — Inauguration of the Tinh Tuc tin mine.

November:

— Visit of the Chinese Government delegation headed by Premier Chou En-lai.

December:

— The VNWP put forth financial tasks and directions for 1957.

29 — The National Assembly endorsed:

+ the trade-union law,

+ the inviolability of residence and property and privacy of correspondence law.

1957

February:

20 — Second Arts, and Literature National Congress. Establishment of the Arts and Literature Union.

March:

— 12th session of the CC of the VNWP sanctioned the 1957 State plan and the strengthening of national defence.

17 — Visit of a Czechoslovak Government delegation.

27 — Setting up of the Standing Commission of Scientific and Technical Co-operation with other countries.

April:

— Construction of a big hydraulic work in Nghe An province to irrigate 23,000 hectares of crop land.

3 — Visit of a Polish Government delegation.

May:

20 — Visit of a Soviet Party and Government delegation headed by Voroshilov, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

July:

6 — Visit of a DRVN delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh to Korea, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the GDR, Hungary, Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, etc.

September:

6 — Promulgation of ten policies promoting production in mountain regions.

10 — The National Assembly passed the 1957 State plan.

23 — Inauguration of the Phu Tho tea-curing plant (supplied by the Soviet Union).

October:

6 — Visit of a Bulgarian Government delegation.

31 — A delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh attended the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution, the meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties of Socialist Countries (Nov. 14 - 16), and the meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties of 65 countries (Nov. 16 - 19).

November:

20 — Inauguration of the hydro-power stations at Ta Sa and Na Ngan built with Soviet aid.

December:

— 13th session of the CC of the VNWP raised public servants' wage scale.

1958

February:

4 — A Government delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh visited India and Burma.

23 — Visit of a Rumanian Government delegation.

April:

12 — Inauguration of the Hanoi engineering plant supplied by the Soviet Union.

16 — The National Assembly outlined the socialist path to be followed by the North and approved the 3-year plan of economic transformation and development and cultural development (1958 - 1960).

June:

13 — Provisional regulations on the organization of handicraft co-operatives.

October:

— Starting of the construction of the Bac - Hung - Hai hydraulic work.

9 — Visit of a Bulgarian Parliamentary and Government delegation.

November:

— 14th session of the CC of the VNWP: acceleration of socialist construction through the 3-year plan (1958 - 1960).

28 — Visit of a delegation of the Korean Peoples Democratic Republic.

December:

9 — The National Assembly approved the 3-year plan (1958 - 1960).

13 — Visit of an Algerian Government delegation.

End of December: basic liquidation of illiteracy in the delta and midland of North Viet Nam.

1959

January:

17 — Visit of a GDR Party and Government delegation.

31 — Inauguration of the first telecommunication system built with Chinese aid.

February:

26 — A Government delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh visited Indonesia.

28 — Change of the monetary system: one new *dong* for 1,000 old *dongs*.

March:

4 — Setting up of the State Scientific Research Committee.

7 — Signing of an economic and scientific co-operation agreement between Viet Nam and the Soviet Union.

22 — Visit of India's President R. Prasad.

April:

13 — Inauguration of the Dong Xuan knitwear factory built with Chinese aid.

19 — Visit of a Hungarian Party and Government delegation.

May:

— 16th session of the CC of the VNWP difined the line, principles and policies on agricultural co-operation and transformation of private capitalist industry and trade.

4 — Inauguration of the Vinh power station.

June:

24 — Visit of Indonesian President Sukarno.

August:

30 — Visit of a Mongolian Party and Government delegation.

October:

6 — Visit of a Polish Party and Government delegation.

November:

4 — Inauguration of the Lao Cai power station built with Soviet aid.

December:

18 — The National Assembly adopted:

+ the constitution of the DRVN,

+ the marriage and family law,

+ the election law.

1960

January:

6 — First *Tet* when the tree-planting was initiated.

March:

1 — General census in North Viet Nam returned a population of 15,916,955 souls.

28 — Signing of an agreement for the establishment, with Chinese aid, of 8 agricultural farms and an agricultural technical school.

April:

7 — Opening of the first night-class for higher education.

11 — The National Assembly passed the 1960 State plan and budget, and military draft law.

22 — Conference on sedentarization of nomadic highlanders.

May:

8 — Elections to the National Assembly.

9 — Visit of a Chinese delegation headed by Premier Chou En-lai.

18 — Inauguration of the rubber, soap and cigarette factories built with Chinese aid.

June:

12 — Visit of an Albanian delegation.

14 — Signing of an agreement under which the Soviet Union granted a loan of 350 million rubles to build some agricultural farms and a fruit-processing factory.

July:

7 — The DRVN National Assembly appointed:

+ Ho Chi Minh President of the DRVN and Chairman of the National Defence Council,

+ Ton Duc Thang Vice - President of the DRVN,

+ Truong Chinh President of the NA Standing Committee, and

+ Pham Van Dong Prime Minister.

August:

— Joint State - private enterprises were joined by 97.2% of capitalists with 97% of invested capital.

30 — Inauguration of the Hanoi-Thai Nguyen railway line.

September:

5 — Third Congress of the Viet Nam Workers' Party passed a resolution on the revolutionary tasks in Viet Nam and the Party's statute. The new Central Committee elected Ho Chi Minh President of the Party and Le Duan First Secretary.

15 — Visit of a Guinean delegation headed by President Sekou Touré.

— Construction of the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex started.

— Basic completion of low-level agricultural co-operation: 83.27% of peasant households joined co-operatives.

October:

— Basic completion of low-level handicraft co-operation: over 80% of artisans joined co-operatives.

November:

— A Party delegation headed by President Ho Chi Minh attended the 43rd commemoration of the October Revolution and the meeting of Communist and Workers Parties in Moscow.

December:

24 — Ceremony at the Agricultural Institute graduating the first batch of 184 students.

1961

January:

16 — Setting up of the Committee to Harness and Develop the Red River.

31 — Signing of an agreement under which China granted to the DRVN a long-term loan of 141,750,000 rubles.

March:

30 — Promulgation of the Presidency's decree instituting specific regulations on the organization of the People's Supreme Court and local people's tribunal.

April:

— Visit of a Lao delegation headed by Princes Souvanna Phouma and Souphanouvong.

June:

10 — Setting up of a national committee to fight malaria.

— A delegation headed by Premier Pham Van Dong visited China, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

July:

— 5th plenary session of the VNWP Central Committee passed a resolution on agricultural development.

30 — Graduation at the Polytechnic College of the first batch of 633 engineers of various industrial branches.

September:

11 — National conference on hydraulics.

20 — First successful operation on the liver.

October:

16 — Launching in the educational branch of an emulation drive.

24 — The National Assembly passed a resolution on the world situation and the DRVN diplomacy, and appealed to the national assemblies of various countries to support our effort against US aggression.

November:

8 — Conference on rural popular cultural work.

27 — Projects of the Tay, Nung, Thai, Meo scripts approved by the DRVN Government.

December:

14 — Inauguration of the 110 - kw high - tension line from Viet Tri to Dong Anh (52 km).

1962

January:

2 — Inauguration of the Ban Thach hydro-power station built with Soviet help.

February:

3 — Inauguration of the local broadcasting station of the Viet Bac Autonomous Zone.

March:

5 — Completion of the 110kw high - tension line between Dong Anh and Thai Nguyen.

18 — Inauguration of the Viet Tri industrial center.

April:

18 — The National Assembly endorsed:

+ the 1962 State plan,

+ a declaration condemning US armed aggression in South Viet Nam.

June:

— The CC of the VNWP adopted a resolution on socialist industrialization in the North.

24 — Inauguration of the Lam Thao super-phosphate mill built with Soviet aid.

July:

23 — The DRVN signed the Geneva Agreement on Laos.

August:

24 — Conference on agricultural production in mountain regions.

October:

23 — Fifth session of the National Assembly (Second Legislature) welcomed the visiting South Viet Nam NFL delegation headed by Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu.

1963

January:

19 — The coasting-vessel *Hai Phong* built by the DRVN made her maiden voyage.

22 — Visit of the President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

February:

19 — The Political Bureau of the CC of the VNWP passed a resolution on "improvement of management of co-operatives and technical improvement."

March:

10 — Visit of Lao King Sri Savang Vatthana.

April:

— The National Assembly passed the 1963 State plan.

May:

10 — Visit of the Chairman of People's China.

15 — First congress of the Viet Nam Scientific and Technical Popularization Association.

July:

24 — The Political Bureau of the CC of the VNWP approved a resolution on the strengthening of economic and financial management, technical improvement and fight against corruption, waste and bureaucracy.

September:

9 — Inauguration of the Ha Giang — Dong Van bus line (164km).

October:

20 — Setting up in Hanoi of the International TU Committee of Solidarity with Vietnamese Workers and People against US Imperialist Aggression.

November:

4 — Movement for two - years' hydraulic work (1964 - 1965) started.

6 — Conference on improvement and mechanization of agriculture.

December:

20 — Inauguration of the first blast furnace of the Thai Nguyen iron and steel works.

— The 9th session of the CC of the VNWP passed a resolution on the world situation and the Party's internationalist duty.

1964

January:

14 — Congress of advanced agricultural co-ops and production teams held in Thai Binh.

18 — Inauguration of Uong Bi power station (first part) built with Soviet help.

27 — A Party's delegation headed by Le Duan, First Secretary, had talks with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the friendly relations and fraternal co-operation between both Parties and peoples, on current international affairs and on the communists and workers' movement in the world. The delegation also held talks with the Chinese Communist Party.

February:

3 — Inauguration of the Ap Bac - Nam Hong hydraulic work in Hanoi suburbs, irrigating 14,000 hectares of crop land.

March:

17 — Conference of women cadres of mountain regions.

27 — At a Special Political Conference convened in Hanoi, President Ho Chi Minh called on the Vietnamese people to "redouble their efforts to compensate for the sacrifice made by their blood brothers in the South."

April:

13 — Congress of advanced co-operatives and agricultural production teams in the uplands and midlands.

26 — Elections to the National Assembly (3rd Legislature).

May:

18 — Inauguration of the Ham Rong bridge and the Ham Rong-Vinh railway line of 150km long.

19 — Completion of the Uong Bi - Dong Anh high-tension line (104km).

— Completion of the Viet Tri - Thac Ba high-tension line (70km).

June:

27 — First session of the National Assembly (Third Legislature) appointed Ho Chi Minh President of the DRVN and Ton Duc Thang Vice President, Truong Chinh President of the Standing Committee of the NA, and Pham Van Dong Prime Minister.

August:

2 — US destroyer *Maddox* violated DRVN territorial waters between Hon Me and Lach Truon (Thanh Hoa) and was fought off.

5 — US aircraft attacked the peripheries of Vinh - Ben Thuy, of Hong Gai town, Lach Truong river mouth, Gianh river mouth: 8 planes downed, 3 others damaged.

19 — Construction of Thac Ba hydro-power project began.

September:

23 — Blast furnace No 2 of the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex was commissioned.

October:

18 — Visit of President Modibo Keita of the Republic of Mali.

November:

25 — International Conference of Solidarity with the Vietnamese People against US Imperialist Aggression and for the Defence of Peace in Hanoi was attended by 169 members of 64 delegations representing 12 international organizations and people of 5 countries.

December:

26 — Promulgation of the DRVN legal measurement system.

— 10th plenary session of the CC of the VNWP approved a resolution on commercial and the price policies.

(To be continued)

CAMBODIAN HEAD OF STATE'S MESSAGE

on Inauguration of "Voice of the FUNK" Radio

ON the occasion of the inauguration of the "Voice of the National United Front of Kampuchea" station, Cambodian Head of State Norodom Sihanouk has adressed a message to his fellow-countrymen over the radio.

He said, "I hope all of you, dear fellow-countrymen, to listen attentively and regularly to the radio of our FUNK, which is the authentic and unique voice of the Khmer people and of the independent, neutral, progressive, popular, anti-fascist and anti-imperialist Cambodia. The voice of Phnom Penh has become the voice of treason, the most infamous in our country and in the eyes of our people, the voice of slavery and national humiliation under the yoke of American neo-colonialist imperialism.

"The traitors who have usurped constitutional power in Phnom Penh are very afraid that our compatriots living under their odious dictatorship know the realities at home and abroad. That is why, they threatened with penalty of 20 years of imprisonment anyone who listens to popular radio stations, that is to say to the authentic voice of the independent Asian countries."

"The moment has arrived for all of you, the Khmer people worthy of this name," Head of State Norodom Sihanouk went on, "to struggle for the honour and liberation of the country, and for a democratic, popular, progressive regime which alone can take our country out of underdevelopment and bring our people full social justice and a high standard of living. Your national and popular task is to follow the example of the revolutionary peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and unite closely with them to eliminate the exploiters and blood suckers of our country who are chiefly the American imperialists and their valets.

"From 1955 to 1970, our country and people under my guidance lived in a complete independence, in the sole peace haven of the area and in a neutrality and territorial integrity respected by the whole world. Since the March 18 coup d'état, Lon Nol and his followers have plunged our Cambodia and people in the most atrocious war which the US imperialists want to impose on the whole Asia in order to tighten their hold over it. Phnom Penh has become a colony of the US and a camp of soldiery of the Vietnamese traitors and then of the Thailand traitors. Besides, these traitors have compelled Lon Nol to deliver to them a good part of our provinces, islands and territorial waters. Lon Nol and his followers in betraying their country and people have gone to the length of asking and insisting that aircraft of the US, Saigon and Thailand fly every day intensive bombings on our countryside and cities, laying waste the achievements and social progress recorded over the past 15 years, killing and mutilating horribly our working people, and destroying their property. That is what the US imperialists call a happy life and democracy of the 'free world,' and what the traitors and their henchmen call national salvation. That is the true nature of the US imperialists and the regimes which, like Lon Nol's, owe their power and survival only to that imperialism."

"The 'Voice of the National United Front of Kampuchea' Radio, that is the voice of the Khmer people," the Cambodian Head of State pointed out, "will daily enlighten you on your task and the realities in our country and the world which the US imperialists and the traitors are doing all they can to hide from you. In so doing, you will be able to follow the dictates of your conscience as Khmer patriots, and uphold the supreme interests of the Fatherland, the profound interests of our people and the long-term interests of your family and your own."

RISING PROTEST AGAINST

Nixon's Policy in the US

MORE and more Americans have protested Nixon's policy expansion of the war of aggression to the whole of Indochina and demanded an immediate end to this costly adventure, reports from the US said.

When Nixon arrived in Salt Lake City, capital of Utah, on July 24, the local authorities organized a meeting to "welcome" him in the downtown district. Hardly had Nixon finished saying, "I have never seen a crowd so big or so friendly" when anti-war shouts broke out among the crowd. People also shouted, "Power to the people!" The meeting had to wind up in a hurry.

Earlier in the day, Nixon had been mobbed by a crowd of about 2,000 anti-war demonstrators when he arrived in Fargo, North Dakota, to meet the governors of North and South Dakota, and other States.

The dissenters carried protest signs some of which read "War is good business, invest your son!"

According to *AFP*, Fargo is strongly Republican and is populated by the kind of people who make up what Nixon called the "silent majority."

Nelson, adviser to the American delegation at the United Nations, has sent a letter to US Secretary of State William Rogers announcing his resignation on account of his disaccord with Washington's foreign policy. Nelson made clear his objection to the US war of aggression in Indochina which he described as one of the gravest political and strategic blunders in American history.

Senator Edward Kennedy told the US Presidential Commission on Student Violence on July 15 that calm would not return to American campuses till the Viet Nam war was ended. He described the war as a primary cause of student turbulence and said there could be no solution until the war in Viet Nam ended.

Senator Kennedy, who had participated in numerous meetings with university students especially after the wave of protests that followed the US military invasion of Cambodia, said, "We cannot treat the problem of campus unrest in isolation, divorced from its central relation to the war in Southeast Asia."

"It is no coincidence that the age of campus unrest coincides almost precisely with the escalation of American involvement in Viet Nam," he added.

Senator Kennedy said, "It may well be that in the nature of things, there can be no solution to the problem of campus unrest until there is a solution to the war in Viet Nam."

According to reports from the United States, over two million American people had signed a petition, urging the withdrawal of all US troops from South Viet Nam. This was a new and forceful expression of the anti-war movement in the United States following the demonstrations of millions of Americans and other actions of tens of millions of others in late 1969, and an illustration that all peace hoaxes of Nixon had failed to dupe the Americans.

Nixon's continuation and extension of the Viet Nam war to Cambodia has brought heavy losses on the United States in all spheres, which are at the bottom of the current recrudescence of opposition to him.

IN TWO MONTHS OF RAINY SEASON

3,000 ENEMY CASUALTIES AND 1,000 FIRE-ARMS CAPTURED BY LAO PATRIOTIC FORCES

Here is a survey of the Lao military situation in last June and July, the two first months of the rainy season just released by KPL News Agency (See map on page 8).

In Northern Laos:

The enemy base in Long Chen—Sam Thong, southwest of the Plain of Jars, remained under siege. On July 6, a mixed battalion of Lao and Thai mercenaries suffered over 100 casualties in an attack of the Lao People's Liberation Armed Forces, northwest of Sam Thong. Many dens of rebels were assailed or wiped out in Phong Saly, Nam Tha, Luang Prabang, Xieng Khoang areas. The patriots recorded a big success in Sam Neua province on July 7: hundreds of adverse troops were put out of action and military installations in Pha Siphon pirates' training centre destroyed.

In Southern Laos:

The Lao patriotic forces fought back Saigon puppet troops' inroads into Kham Mouane and Savannakhet provinces. They inflicted heavy losses upon two enemy battalions on Road No 9 in Phalane and Muong Phine region.

Around Attopeu and Saravanne cities freed by the end of the dry season, they pursued and mowed down the remnants of enemy forces. The Vientiane authorities attempts to encroach upon liberated areas on Boloven Plateau came to grief.

At the southernmost of the country, Khong city by the Mekong River was seriously threatened by guerillas. The Lao patriotic forces won two momentous successes in this sector: one company of the 49th Mobile Battalion was completely written off at Saphang on July 13, and Moulapamok small town captured on the same day with a toll of a hundred enemy casualties.

In all, during the two months of June and July the enemy sustained heavy setbacks: nearly 3,000 casualties listed, thousands of weapons seized and a great quantity of war material damaged.

KHMER PATRIOTS' GREAT GAINS IN KIRIROM, KAMPOT, KREK, SKOUN AND KOMPONG THOM

ON last July 27 in Kririrom city, 85 km west of Phnom Penh, the Kampuchea National Liberation Armed Forces for the second time mounted violent attacks on three Phnom Penh puppet battalions. After a day's fight they won control of the city, wiped out or disbanded all the enemy battalions, took prisoner a great number of their men.

On the same day, near Kampot city, they knocked out one enemy battalion and battered another while seizing a cement factory. A number of Lon Nol troops were killed and 250 others captured; two 75mm guns, 30 military vehicles and a large quantity of equipment and material were seized by the patriots.

In Kompong Cham province they inflicted heavy losses upon the 333rd Group of Saigon puppet troops in Krek region (110 km east-northeast of Phnom Penh). On the night of July 27 and during the next day in a devastating raid on the 9th Battalion of the 333rd Group which was preparing to return to South Viet Nam, they killed and wounded 250 men, destroyed 21 vehicles, including 5 M.113's, 6 guns and 3 heavy mortars together with all the structures of the enemy base. Meanwhile three other positions of Saigon puppet troops near Krek on Road No 7 came under heavy fire. In all, 450 enemy casualties, 41 military vehicles, including 20 armoured cars, set ablaze and 15 guns and heavy mortars blasted out of commission.

On the night of July 31 and the next day, the Kampuchea National Liberation Armed Forces seized an important cross-roads of Skoun, 56 km north-northeast of Phnom Penh, after mowing down one battalion and decimating another of the Lon Nol clique. On next day, one more puppet battalion was entirely depleted 3 km north of Skoun. Another enemy battalion coming to its rescue from Kompong Cham was cut to pieces and disbanded east of Skoun.

To the north in Kompong Thom provincial capital (124 km north of Phnom Penh) they were also very active and from July 31 to August 2 gained control of important positions in the city and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy. (*See map on page 8*).

(From the FUNK Information Bureau)

Can the Puppet Army . . .

(Continued from page 1)

The "marine" units are organized in divisions and "rangers" units in groups composed each of from 3 to 4 battalions; and infantry divisions were reinforced by such accompanying units as artillery, logistics, medical service.

The "regional forces," formerly assigned to the "household" task, receive over a modern armament to carry out larger-scale "sweeps," leaving the defence of small rural posts to the "civilian guards." This new division of duty gives the "untrammelled" regular forces a greater mobility. The swelling of effectives is made by an intense crimping of men from 13 to 55 who chance to be caught by the puppet authorities and pressganged into the "civilian guard;" and the most able-bodied men will join the regional forces.

TOWARDS A QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENT

The poor quality of the puppet command is a serious concern of the US chiefly as far as commanding officers, unit commanders, "political war" specialists and technicians are concerned. Thus early this year there have been in South Viet Nam up to 23 training centres and 25 military schools of various arms and armies. In 1969, over 6,000 military-men were sent abroad chiefly to the US to perfect their knowledge (4 times over the previous years). Keen attention has been paid to the formation of pilots mainly for choppers. The "political war" school at Da Lat which in May last took over 100 cadet casualties in a lightning attack of the patriotic forces, will train per batch from 300 to 400 "political officers" who will give the troops a nationalist and anti-communist ideology. A whole hierachy of services and cadres is set up to this effect in the puppet army to form men devoted to Washington.

The contribution made by the American tax payers is used to pay for the devotion of the puppet troops as wage-lift, allowances, dwellings and other privileges granted to armymen.

CHANGING THE COMPLEXION OF CORPSES

The US command has worked out a plan aimed at replacing in some sectors GIs by puppet troops.

Thus, to withdraw the "marines" of the US Third Division exhausted at Khe Sanh and Hue, the sector of Highway No 9 along the demarcation line at the 17th parallel and the Viet Nam—Laos frontier is now guarded by the puppet First Infantry Division. Further South, the Western High Plateaux defended by the US Fourth Infantry Division is now in charge of the 47th Regiment of the puppet 22nd Infantry Division. On the Saigon front, the "Big Red One" has been relieved by the puppet 5th Infantry Division in the Thu Dau Mot sector and the "First Cav." by the single puppet Para Division in the Tay Ninh sector. The area near Saigon is now assigned to General Do Cao Tri's troops. In the southernmost part of South Viet Nam, the puppet 7th Infantry Division and a puppet "marine" brigade has filled the vacuum left by the US 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta. According to US figures, in 1969 the operations launched by battalion-sized puppet units increased by 30 per cent over the previous year. Thus the Saigon troops must take upon themselves the defence of the threatened frontiers as well as the populated areas around military bases and big towns. Behind these "safety" belts, militia and "civilian guards" are engaging in "pacification" work with units specializing in the job.

It goes without saying that such a state of things can in no way end the hostilities but is to make the puppet troops share in the losses suffered by the US aggressors at the hands of the PLAF. This is, as US Ambassador Elsworth Bunker has put it, "to change the complexion of the corpses."

A RISKY QUANTITATIVE CHANGE

Did the US efforts pay?

Despite the general mobilization in 1969, this troop contingent could hardly fill the gap left by the most serious losses inflicted by the patriotic forces and desertions oftentimes collective. In the first quarter of 1969 the losses of the puppet army were 148 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1968 which was however marked by the famous *Tet* general offensive and uprisings. The "marines" and "para-troops," that is the strategic reserve of the puppet army, must regularly replenish two-thirds of their forces. An *AFP* Saigon correspondent on April 8, 1970 wrote that the losses caused to the puppet army by the PLAF attacks in the first weeks of April were the heaviest ones since August 1968.

Desertion rate has remained alarming: 150,000 desertions in 1968 and 30,000 in the first quarter of 1970. *UPI* reported on May 3 that in some divisions, the percentage of desertion was terrible. Other sources revealed that it had reached 50 per cent in the 18th Division and 21st Division. The overwhelming majority of puppet units are still under strength and many infantry, "rangers" and "para" battalions are only about half strength. The American press disclosed that the puppet army suffered a great shortage of cadres: the infantry is in need of from 10,000 to 15,000 officers and the "marine" 1,300.

The efficiency of the puppet army is worse owing to the fact that, busy with "pacification," only 10 per cent of the 171 "combat" battalions can serve as mobile force of intervention.

PAST MENDING

The vital weakness of the puppet army lies in the poor morale and combativeness of its troops. It is doubtful that "Vietnamization" will to any extent remedy this original and incurable disease.

Set up by the French colonialists to help the French expeditionary corps, that mercenary army could only muster in its ranks the most abject scums of the Vietnamese people. At the time of the French débâcle in 1954, it numbered 228,000. Beaten, demoralized and in full deliquescence, it went south in the vans of the French expeditionary corps. Revived by the Americans, it would have collapsed in 1964-1965 under the blows of the patriotic forces had Johnson not hurriedly hurled in South Viet Nam heavy contingents of US troops. Without an ideal, badly shaken, having experienced only reverses and heavy losses for a quarter of a century and humiliated by successive sleeping partners as well as by the people, how can such an army live up to the American's expectations? Officers and men are exhausted by the war and heart-rent at the sight of massacres and destruction wrought on their native land on orders from the Yankees. No doubt that they rather try to keep off from the fight. According to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, 18 puppet battalions refused battle in 1965, 70 in 1968 and 150 in 1969.

That is why in 1966-1967, Westmoreland had US troops fight side by side with the puppet soldiers in "search and destroy" operations. If this did not prevent the puppet troops from shunning the fight, no self-delusion is possible now that the US expeditionary forces withdraw further and further from the "hottest" areas. Last year when the puppet 47th Regiment was sent to relieve the US 4th Infantry Division stationed in the Western High Plateaux, one-third of its troops vanished and the Regiment arrived at destination with a great delay.

Washington assumes that the modernization of arms and equipment will raise the morale of the puppet troops. But how can that bastard army carry the day with a weaponry inferior in quality to those of the GIs where the US expeditionary forces have failed? And if a "hare" armed with fangs and claws does not have a "lion's heart," it is safe to say that the arms issued to the quislings will only enable them to perpetrate against the people heinous crimes for which the Yankees must answer.

OTHER HANDICAPS

The value of the puppet army is also debased by other inconveniences which neither greenbacks nor US armoury can overcome.

Western commentators did not fail to reveal that 40 per cent of the puppet army are composed of men enlisted in 1969. The combat units have from 60 to 70 per cent of "raw recruits." In 1968-1969, 30 per cent of the men who filled the vacuum in these units were old deserters caught again by the police.

Among the 54,000 officers, 9,000, or one-sixth, were fresh from military schools and three-fifths have been enlisted after 1965.

Profound social antagonisms divide officers and rank-and-file, subalterns and high-ranking officers, hence the great number of mutinies and rebellions. In 1969, there were 800 cases of murders of wicked officers or US "advisors," of premeditated destruction of materials or of uprisings in co-operation with PLAF men, by puppet soldiers.

The divergences with the US aggressors also lower the combativeness of the puppet troops. Pending their repatriation, the GIs are loath to go to the rescue of the "gooks." These difficulties impede the combined actions of these "allies" who only heap scorn on one another.

The use of modern materials is also a thorny problem—technical as well as moral—for the majority of the puppet troops do not have the required technical standard to handle them properly. On the contrary, these mercenaries are in the habit of making war *à l'américaine*, that is they are accustomed to move about in choppers, to ask for powerful air and artillery cover and an efficient logistic support. This method of warfare, which has proved to be inefficient in the last few years, involves a military expenditure which not only exceeds by far the economic and financial means of the puppet regime but is a heavy burden for even the US budget.

All this shows how futile the hope of the US imperialists to see American troops efficiently relieved by the puppet army is. Realities on the battlefield are quite clear in this respect.

(To be continued)

AN EDUCATION

of the People and for the People

(Continued from page 3)

AN EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE

In the long run, it is the people that are the principal architect of the education system in the DRVN.

Either in the literacy campaign or in the organization of infant and general education classes, nothing could have been done if it were not for the people's help.

Such organizations as Unions of Pupils' Parents, Associations for School Patronage, have been proliferating for the people to take part in the education of their children: erecting school buildings, making school articles, with people's contributions in kind or in the form of workdays. Family education and education by mass organizations, especially the Youth and Young Pioneers, conducted parallel to, and in close co-operation with, that of the schools tend to aptly complete the latter.

Formerly a means of colonialist enslavement, education has become, under the democratic regime, a real instrument at the service of the nation and the people. Accessible to all, irrespective of age, sex, nationality and religious belief, it allows all talents to blossom among the labouring masses. Therefore, millions of people are able to go in for modern sciences and techniques.

The Vietnamese school has trained a big contingent of new cadres and socialist intellectuals devoted to the revolution and the people. In the factories or the agricultural co-ops, they zealously take part in the improvement of techniques to obtain increasingly high productivity and output.

Over the past 25 years, the Vietnamese school, a bastion of socialism, has been turning new men. These are men who love their Fatherland and their socialist regime, who are ready for every sacrifice in the interest of the revolutionary cause and animated with high proletarian internationalism. The two wars of resistance and the current socialist revolution have proffered them opportunities to prove their capacity and their fortitude.

The successes of these 25 years have demonstrated the soundness of the Viet Nam Workers' Party's educational line. Under its leadership, the people made masters of their own destiny have literally swept out the vestiges of a century of servitude and have built a genuinely national and progressive education.

The difficulties faced by the education—and they are many—are growing pains. But the North Vietnamese people and teaching personnel, who have successfully tackled this task for the last twenty-five years, will certainly carry the day.

PLAF artillerymen

SOUTH VIET NAM MILITARY SITUATION IN JULY

THE enemy situation in the Northern provinces in July was more serious than in any other parts of South Viet Nam, and the PLAF had penetrated the coastal areas of this region where the level of fighting had increased fourfold. In Central Viet Nam the situation was also very grave for the US-puppets.

On the Saigon front, since June the US and puppets have been compelled to fall back to guard the areas close to the city. At the same time, they sent puppet marines to Quang Nam – Da Nang to deal with the situation there. And to make up for the infantry pinned down on all battlefields in South Viet Nam the US made intensive use of aircraft, especially B-52s, and artillery including long-range guns, against populous areas in the Mekong Delta, the plains of Central Viet Nam, and the Tri-Thien-Hue area to the North.

It is clear from such moves that the enemy was trying hard to make good the damage suffered since the beginning of this year, in particular since the ill-fated Cambodia adventure.

From late June up to early last month, the South Viet Nam Liberation forces and people maintained heavy pressure on all battlefields. The US and puppet troops returning from Cambodia immediately received hard blows at the border areas. Two attacks of the PLAF in Katum area, Tay Ninh province, resulted in 300 casualties for the US 11th Armoured Regiment and the destruction of nearly 90 military vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars.

In mid-July, in a series of ambushes on Highway 22, about one kilometre from the Cambodian frontier, the Liberation forces destroyed a whole convoy of 130 military vehicles, killing or wounding more than 600 enemy troops. At the same time the PLAF erased an artillery ground at Xa Mat, thereby wiping out an important support fire-base of the enemy for his positions in Thien Ngon and Xa Mat in Tay Ninh province (South Viet Nam) and Ta Hien and Krek positions in Kompong Cham province (Cambodia).

The US and puppet forces were also battered right in their "forward defence" strategy. In Tri-Thien-Hue area, they took heavy losses in the Hill 935 area. In the twenty-three days of fruitful fighting, the Liberation forces wiped out more than 1,700 enemy troops of the 3rd Brigade of the US 101st Airborne Division, and shot down or destroyed on the ground one-fourth of the air-power of this units.

In the meantime, the enemy strategic reserves sent to Quang Nam – Da Nang to cope with the situation there suffered hundreds of casualties at the hands of the guerillas and regional forces.

In the month, helped by the powerful actions of the main force, guerilla warfare developed vigorously and shattered more of the enemy's grip in the "strategic hamlets" and military sub-sectors and sectors.

"Pacification" raids in the plains of Central Viet Nam and the Mekong Delta continued to meet with stinging rebuffs. The "pacification" program in such key areas as in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Ca Mau, Can Tho and Bac Lieu provinces was seriously disrupted. The regional Liberation forces' increasing role in the defence and broadening of the liberated areas became transparent: they knocked out thousands of enemy troops and agents including whole companies. Guerillas in Rach Gia and Ca Mau provinces, within the first four days of July sank or set ablaze war vessels, and heavily damaged the enemy floating base at Xeo Ro. The armed forces and people in Ben Tre province attacked by surprise the enemy at the Ham Luong ferry crossing, and exacted a toll of more than 250 men and 7 war vessels sunk or damaged.

Meanwhile, many enemy base camps and important positions came under heavy gun-fire. The US military bases at Cam Ranh port and the puppets' military training centre at Song Mao, Binh Thuan province, were among the targets hit by the PLAF.

In a word, last month saw greater aggressiveness of the armed forces and people in South Viet Nam and their highly efficient use of all the three kinds of forces (regular army, regional forces and guerilla). The military successes, joined to the efficacious political struggle and agitation among enemy ranks, have worsened the weak points of the enemy and paved the way for the elimination of more manpower of the US and puppets in the days to come.

In Six Years' War Escalation

3,359 U.S. AIRCRAFT *Downed in North Viet Nam*

ON August 2, 1970 a US pilotless scout was shot down in Thanh Hoa province, and on August 8, another in Hoa Binh province (south west of Hanoi).

Five other unmanned planes were brought down in North Viet Nam on July 1, 3, 17, 19 and 27 in the provinces of Quang Ninh (north-east of Haiphong), Thai Binh (south-west of Haiphong), Vinh Linh (on the 17th parallel), Thanh Hoa (on the 20th parallel) and Vinh Phu (north of Hanoi) respectively.

Since the outset of their war escalation in the DRVN on August 5, 1964 the US aggressors have had 3,359 planes and choppers downed by our AA defence.

Impressive Figures

American Imperialists' Generosity

THE following figures were given in the July 29, 1970 issue of *Le Monde*, by Jacques Decornoy, on the quantity of bombs and shells used by the US aggressors in Viet Nam (both North and South) and in Laos from 1965 to May 1970:

— *Bombs:*

315,000 tons	in	1965
512,000	—	1966
932,763	—	1967
1,431,654	—	1968
1,387,000	—	1969
594,191	—	five months of 1970

Total: 5,172,588 tons

— *Shells:* 5,155,700 tons from January 1, 1968 to May 31, 1970 (the quantity of shells fired by US Navy was not mentioned).

The total of US bombs and shells sowing death and destruction in Viet Nam and Laos during this period was equal to 500 A-bombs dropped over Hiroshima in 1945 in terms of power (20 kilotons each).

— At present, in Indochina, each month the Americans employ a quantity of bombs and shells equal to 11 A-bombs of the Hiroshima type. In 1969 they showered over South Viet Nam a daily average of 7,551 tons of projectiles of all calibers (nearly 1,000 times as against those utilized by the People's Liberation Armed Forces, US statistics revealed).

— The ending of North Viet Nam bombing at the end of 1968 did not influence the activities of US Air Force. The amount of bombs released soared with every passing day:

In October 1968 (before the bombing halt): 122,233 tons

In December 1968 (after the bombing halt): 127,672 tons

In March 1969 : 130,141 tons

The monthly average in the first five months of 1970 was over 100,000 tons. It is obvious that a total of 1,200,000 tons of bombs will be dropped this year. With the addition of the quantity of shells fired, it will surpass the figure for 1969 in spite of "Vietnamization" and the partial withdrawal of US troops that Nixon used to ballyhoo as proofs of his "desire for peace" and America's "generosity."

Every Indochinese therefore must be grateful to Uncle Sam for having received from him a 300 kg bomb on the head.